

Accepted

Minutes from the Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) Task Force – Regulatory Working Group Meeting of March 8, 2001

The meeting was held in Conference Room 280, DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street and began at approximately 8:05 AM.

In attendance:

Russ Chateaufneuf, Ken Jones, Eugenia Marks, Rob Adler, Alison Walsh, Kendra Beaver, Tom D'Angelo, Scott Moorehead, Ernie Panciera, Deb Knauss

Review of minutes from February 28, 2001

Minutes were accepted as presented.

Funeral Homes and Beauty Parlors

Dr. Ken Jones, Chief, Clinical Laboratory Scientist with the RI Department of Health participated in discussion concerning potential risk associated with discharging wastewater from funeral homes, beauty parlors, and nursing homes to septic systems. Key points were:

- Some of the illnesses of great concern to public health, such as Hepatitis B and C, are caused by blood borne pathogens that do not survive long outside the host and as such are not a significant groundwater pollution threat;
- Concentrations of pathogens in nursing home wastewater would not affect the functioning of septic systems at these facilities any differently than single family residential systems.

Russ distributed a document prepared by the NJ DEP in 1992, which reported the results of a study in which the characteristics of beauty salon wastewater and sludge were evaluated. The report concluded that based on the characteristics of beauty salon wastewater, ISDSs for beauty salons may be allowed to be regulated under the NJ septic system rule. The report cites that NJ typically recommends that wastewater from beauty salons be mixed with domestic wastewater when possible, since the TSS and BOD in beauty salon wastewater “may not be conducive to proper functioning of a septic system”.

Draft Language – Mini Amendment

Due to the snowstorm, the RIBA Environmental Committee was not able to meet prior to March 8. The committee will meet at a later date, to discuss the proposed mini-amendment. It was stated that RIBA may consider yielding to the issue concerning the 1992 data, but that they object strongly to requiring soil evaluation on sites with approved 2 – 4 foot watertables.

The following objections were expressed concerning requiring soil evaluation on sites which have approved 2 – 4-foot watertables:

- The test is costly, and would neither yield additional information nor improve the design of the system. Increased protection would be afforded by requiring advanced treatment in critical resource areas.
- The watertable elevation on sites with 2 – 4 foot water tables, may be different than that previously approved when evaluated by soil morphology, yet the law indicates that the original field data is valid.

There was discussion concerning section 15.05 of the regulations, which gives homeowners the authority to conduct testing for design of ISDS.

- Strong sentiment was expressed that this is not appropriate, particularly with consideration of the qualifications for licensing as a soil evaluator. There was unanimous stakeholder support for deleting this section from the regulations.
- It was suggested that the regulations be modified by deleting PE's and PLS's from the section describing persons qualified to test and stating, instead, that testing may be conducted by licensed designers and those authorized by statute.

Soil Evaluations Inconclusive for Watertable

Confusion was expressed concerning who should conduct the wetseason watertable monitoring on sites where the soil evaluation was inconclusive for watertable. Two general perspectives were expressed:

- 1) The soil evaluator should be the person who conducts the watertable monitoring because:
 - The soil evaluator made the decision to go to wetseason monitoring;
 - Determination of the watertable is part of the work commitment of the soil evaluator;
 - Watertable elevation is provided on the soil evaluation portion of the site evaluation form.
- 2) Allow Class II and III designers to do monitoring.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00.

Next Meeting

The Meeting will be held in Conference Room 280, DEM Office of Water Resources, 235 Promenade Street.

- Wednesday, March 28, 2001 8 AM to 10:00 AM